Loss due to non-clearance from department of forest

†2521. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-clearnace of approval under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, there has been a shortfall in the production of coal of around 27,93,324 tonnes by the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited from the last April to February this year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that State Government, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and Central Government suffered a loss of Rupees, 23,74,35,000/-118,25,10,000/-and 25,89,99,000/- respectively; and

(c) who is responsible for this loss and concrete measures taken by Government for stopping the recurrence of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to delay/non-clearance of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 there has been a shortfall in production of coal to the tune of 23,12,910 Tonnes from April, 2004 to February, 2005 in Mahandi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

(b) Due to above shortfall in production of coal, accrual of Rs. 21.40 crores in form of Royalty and taxes to the State Government, Rs. 2.31 crores of excise duty and taxes to the Central Government and Rs. 55.29 crores of revenue to MCL did not materialise.

(c) Regular interaction with State Government Forest officials and Ministry of Environmental and Forests is being done for stopping the recurrence of the similar losses.

Policy to allot coal for captive use

2522. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a change in the present policy of providing coal for captive use through coal linkage;

(b) if so, whether the new policy would also be applicable to the companies which already have availed coal linkage;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.